

Creating Maps for Data2Maps

What you should have to create map images:

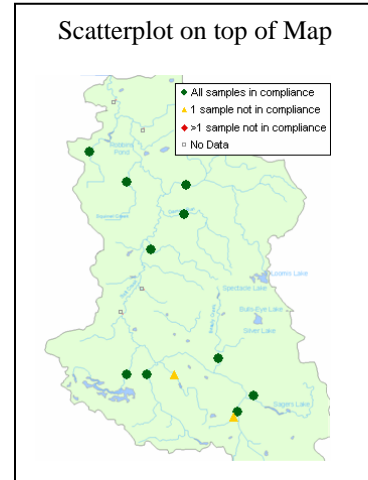
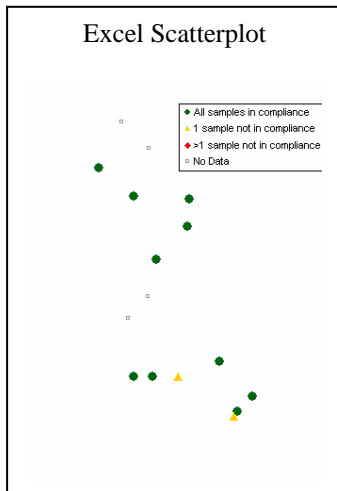
- Lat/longs for sampling locations along with site names
- Type of map(s) desired (watershed delineation, aerial image, etc.)

What you will be producing:

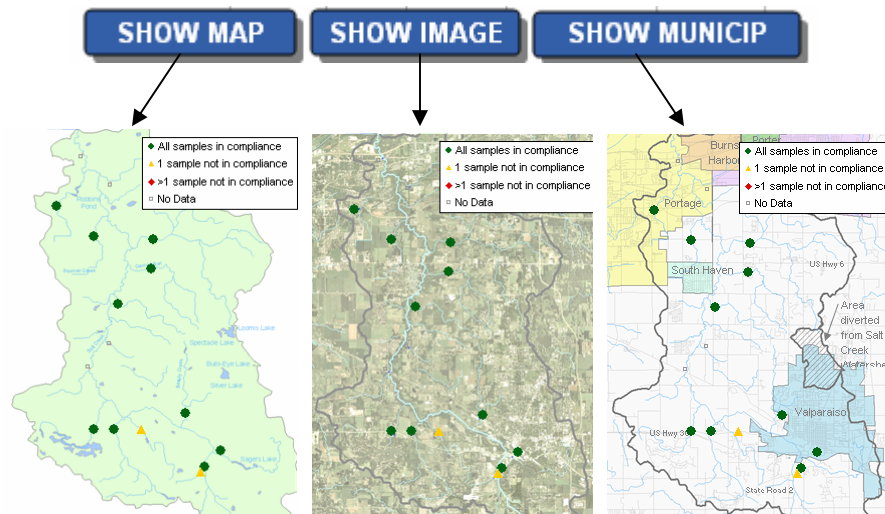
- Map(s) exported as GIFs that will be used in Excel as a backdrop for sampling locations. These instructions are geared towards one experienced in producing GIS maps.

Overview for GIS Analyst:

The map(s) you produce will be pasted into a D2M Excel file as a backdrop for sampling location points (the sampling locations are displayed in the Excel file using a scatterplot of the x-y-coordinates with background = “no fill”).



There is an option to create more than one map. This means the D2M file is set up so the user can choose the background map by a click of a button (similar to Google maps). (Again, this is optional.)



Directions:

1. Create a GIS view with sampling locations layer and map layer(s).
2. Make sampling points small since they will need to be totally covered by another set of markers in Excel.
3. If one of your maps is an aerial photograph, make it slightly transparent (you can try 40% transparency as a starting point) so that the sampling points will stand out more.
4. Zoom to the extent desired by the user (most likely the extent of the sampling locations or the extent of the pertinent watershed)
5. Delineate the watershed boundary using a dark grey border.

Here are some sample final images:



You will now export each of the layers as GIS files. Microsoft products make JPGs fuzzy because they have built-in anti-aliasing (see <http://pptfaq.com/FAQ00065.htm>). In our experience, it seems like images remain clearer when brought in as GIFs.

6. The following export instructions are specific to ArcMap. If you are using another GIS software package, read through the instructions to see what end results you want in your GIS.
 - a. Make the layer you want to export visible, along with the sampling locations layer. All other layers should be turned off. .
NOTE: The sampling locations layers should not be labeled. We have found it's easier to control the display of the site labels if we add them in Excel.
 - b. Go to File > Export Map
 - c. Change Save as Type to "GIF (*.gif)"
 - d. In the General Tab (on the bottom under Options), make sure that the width and height do not exceed the allowable size for the Map Option chosen (see below).
If not, close the dialog, make your view smaller, and start at Step b again.

"Map" Option:

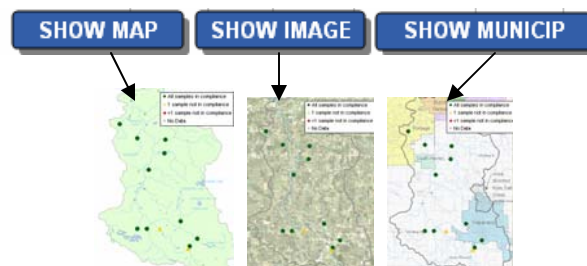
max width 340px

max height 385px

"Image" or "Municip" Option :

max width 500px

max height 575px



7. Save the files as GIF files
8. If there will be more than one map , repeat Step 6 with the desired layer
Note: Do not change the extent of your view, as you want all the maps to cover the same extent, so they can be layered on top of one another.
9. If there is not already have a map with sampling sites labeled, please make one for reference to use in the set-up process.